

Can You Prove That? – Using Primary and Secondary Sources

When historians want to tell the story of an historical figure's life or a famous historical event, they use different types of sources to piece together information. These sources are either **primary sources**, which are firsthand accounts and evidence of an event, or **secondary sources**, which were created after the event by people that did not witness the event in person.

For this assignment, you will create a timeline of significant events from throughout your life, beginning with your birth and including the present day. After brainstorming a thorough list of events that are important to you, choose eight to place on a timeline. However, you need provide sources that prove each of these events occurred. Your evidence may include documents, photographs, newspaper articles, and personal interviews, or any other proof that you would like to provide. You will place your sources on the timeline next to each event and label them as either primary or secondary. Primary sources will appear in blue and secondary sources will appear in green. Your timeline will also include definitions of primary and secondary sources.

Your goal is to have six primary sources and two secondary sources, but if that is too difficult to do, any combination of sources will be acceptable.

By completing this assignment, you will gain an understanding of how historians use a variety of sources when researching a topic. You will also learn some of the advantages and disadvantages of primary and secondary sources.



Name: _____ Section: _____ Date: _____

Name on poster (2.5) _____

Definitions of primary / sec. (2.5) _____

Neatness (5) _____

Event #1 (5) _____

Name of event, with date (1)

Name of source (photo, article) (1)

Type of source (primary, sec.) (1)

Copy of source on poster (1)

Color coded (1)

Event #2 (5) _____

Name of event, with date (1)

Name of source (photo, article) (1)

Type of source (primary, sec.) (1)

Copy of source on poster (1)

Color coded (1)

Event #3 (5) _____

Name of event, with date (1)

Name of source (photo, article) (1)

Type of source (primary, sec.) (1)

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Event #4 (5) _____

Name of event, with date (1)

Name of source (photo, article) (1)

Type of source (primary, sec.) (1)

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Event #5 (5) _____

Name of event, with date (1)

Name of source (photo, article) (1)

Type of source (primary, sec.) (1)

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Event #6 (5) _____

Name of event, with date (1)

Name of source (photo, article) (1)

Type of source (primary, sec.) (1)

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Event #7 (5) _____

Name of event, with date (1)

Name of source (photo, article) (1)

Type of source (primary, sec.) (1)

Copy of source on poster (1)

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Event #8 (5) _____

Name of event, with date (1)

Name of source (photo, article) (1)

Type of source (primary, sec.) (1)

Copy of source on poster (1)

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Total Score (50) _____